

# ILLUSTRATED SPORTING NEWS



## AND THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL REVIEW.

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ONE PENNY.

### SWIMMING.

#### THE MATCH FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

It is a matter of surprise no less than of reproach that Englishmen, though carrying on the largest maritime trade in the world, should, as swimmers, be far behind other nations of Europe. For many years the art of natation has been taught as a part of the military drill of several of the Continental nations. If necessary for soldiers, surely swimming must be infinitely more so for sailors. For the British navy, however, no attempt is made systematically to teach the men to swim, and it is probable that not one-fourth of our men-of-war's men, merchant seamen, or coasting population, could save themselves from the most trifling peril without extraneous help. With our inland population the case is even still worse, and the accidents which are every day recorded are painful commentaries on the consequences of neglecting what ought to be a part of every boy's education. The melancholy occurrence at Cambridge, where the young collegian, Pask, was drowned in a rivulet that a good horse would clear at a bound, should suggest the question to the heads of colleges as to whether they can and will take the initiative in a good cause, by prohibiting those under their charge from risking their lives in the dangerous cockle-shells that are used on the Cam and Isle of Ely. They have graduated in an art that a competent teacher can impart in half a dozen lessons. Most of our readers, we already aware that several clubs exist in London whose sole object is to extend the knowledge of the art of swimming. The London Swimming Club numbers many members whose proficiency is such that the feat of which Lord Byron complacently says "Leander, Mr. Alconbury, and I did"—viz., crossing the rapid but narrow current of the Darดาษ—would be looked upon as a comparatively easy task. In furtherance of their object the members meet at the baths at Pimlico, Endell-street, Long-acre, and Ashley-croft-street, City-road, weekly for instruction both mutually and by a professor. Small prizes are competed for monthly, and finally a handsome silver challenge cup has been provided as an additional inducement.

On Monday this cup was competed for by two young men, one (J. B. Mather) of Manchester—a member of the London Swimming Club, the other (H. Gardner) of London—a non-member. The course was from the Doves—a house just above Hammer-smith Bridge—to the Putney Aqueduct Bridge, a distance of fully two miles. Two steamers took up the friends of the competitors, and a large number of spectators, both in boats and on the banks of the river, assembled to witness the contest. The man started from a large moored of the Doves, having previously stripped the swimming drawers. Both were fine, athletic young men, though Mather appeared to have the advantage in height, and in the important particular of capacity of chest. On this being given both dived nearly at the same time, the advantage of quickness being with Gardner; on the surface, however, Mather had forged ahead of his antagonist. A closely-contested and exciting race followed, which, by the way, very little could be seen from the steamers, from the flotilla of small boats clustering closely round the competitors. The trifling advantage, however, obtained at the outset by Mather he appeared to retain until, on reaching Hammer-smith Bridge, he seemed to be going head first at the stern of the bridge, and had to make a short, so that on passing under the arch they were strictly level. Soon afterwards Gardner put on a fine spurt, and at his opponent by about three yards; but Mather again drew up the spurt, and on passing by the Soap Works they were once more level. Time again drew. They thus continued swimming head and head until, nearing the Crab Tree, when Mather eased himself a little by swimming on his breast (both competitors up to this time having been swimming on their side, with their faces turned towards each other), and Gardner once more led him by about two yards. In the next few strokes, however, Mather again drew up level with him; and so the race continued, both having an alternate lead until they reached the London Rowing Club house, where Mather, who seemed to be the swiftest of the two, was about two yards in front. On reaching Hammer-smith Bridge, both men turned round, and placed Gardner four yards further in the rear. He, however, struggled gamely on, but could not catch his opponent, who won by about four yards. Time, again 45 sec.

NEWCASTLE.—A grand aquatic fête took place at the Northmill Baths, Newcastle, on Wednesday, the 18th inst., and, notwithstanding the weather was not the most inclement description, the attendance was large and respectable; was of a very spirited nature, and afforded much satisfaction to the assembled. We have not the space at our disposal to give the entire programme of the performance, although the excellent manner in which the contests were disposed was very commendable. A

beautiful Leander silver medal, given by members of the Newcastle Swimming Club, for those who have never won a prize, was won by Robert Johnson, in a very pretty manner, by barely one foot. A splendid Victoria and Albert silver medal, given by members for the captaincy of the club, was won by Mr. Pape, distance ten lengths of the bath. This scientific swimmer vanquished his opponent in an exceedingly skilful manner. A sepielchase, four lengths of the bath, for a handsome Leander silver medal, was also won by Mr. Pape. This was a severe struggle, and won by barely four feet. The proceedings wound up with a tub race. The exhibition was very ludicrous, and caused immense amusement. During the evening Mr. Walker went through his astonishing feats of natation with marvellous perfection, and earned well-merited plaudits from the spectators. Altogether, the gala was highly successful, and should Mr. Walker again honour the north with a similar entertainment, there is every likelihood that his indefatigable endeavours will meet with every possible reward. Immediately after the conclusion of the above feat, the successful candidates repaired to the house of J. H. Baird, Star Inn, where the prizes were distributed by Mr. Pickett. An objection was raised by Mr. Gilson against Mr. Pape, for unfair swimming in the contest for the captaincy of the club, and, after a little controversy, the competitors agreed to swim the distance on Saturday last, but as Gilson did not make his appearance, the medal was awarded to Mr. Pape. We may state the winner of the

prize is one of the most finished swimmers in the north. He is the fortunate holder of several valuable trophies, one of which was won by him for successful swimming at Tynemouth, on the 11th of August (last year), and on the following day, at the behest of Mr. Walker, at Newcastle, he was again successful in winning one of the most valuable prizes of the gathering.

### KNURR AND SPELL.

CARDIGAN ARMS, LEEDS.—On Saturday special trains were run between Leeds and Bradford for the purpose of giving parties taking an interest in the great knurr and spell match, for £20 a side, between Joseph Coward, of Bradford, and John (alias Ned) Pearson, of Pearly, near Leeds, an opportunity of witnessing this match, which was played here in the presence of about 1,000 spectators. These men are used players at this game, both having, on several occasions, played against each other. Elsie Stables, the champion of the game, with varied success. They have also played against each other several times. Their last contest was at the City Grounds, Quarry (an, Bradford, on April 13 and 14 last, for £25 a side, when, by an extraordinary stroke by which he obtained thirteen scores, Nelly proved the victor by one score; which was the principal cause of the present match having been made. Previous to commencing the game, Coward was the favourite at 5 to 4. The same odds were offered on him getting the five rises until they had played fifteen rises each, when Nelly led by three scores. After that, the betting became even both on the rises and the game. When they had played twenty-nine rises each, Coward was one score first. Nelly scored 10 with his last stroke, he who did Coward; the latter consequently won by one score only. Coward's total, nine 11's, eleven 10's, nine 9's, and one 4. Total, in thirty rises, 291. Nelly sent four 11's, sixteen 10's, nine 9's, and one 8. Total, 293.

Mr. John KELLY, Low Moor, has received articles and 75 a side for a match at knurr and spell, for £10 a side, between John Scarle and Bill Richard, Chapman, high of Leeds, which is to be played at the Cardigan Arms, today (Saturday).

### RABBIT COURSING.

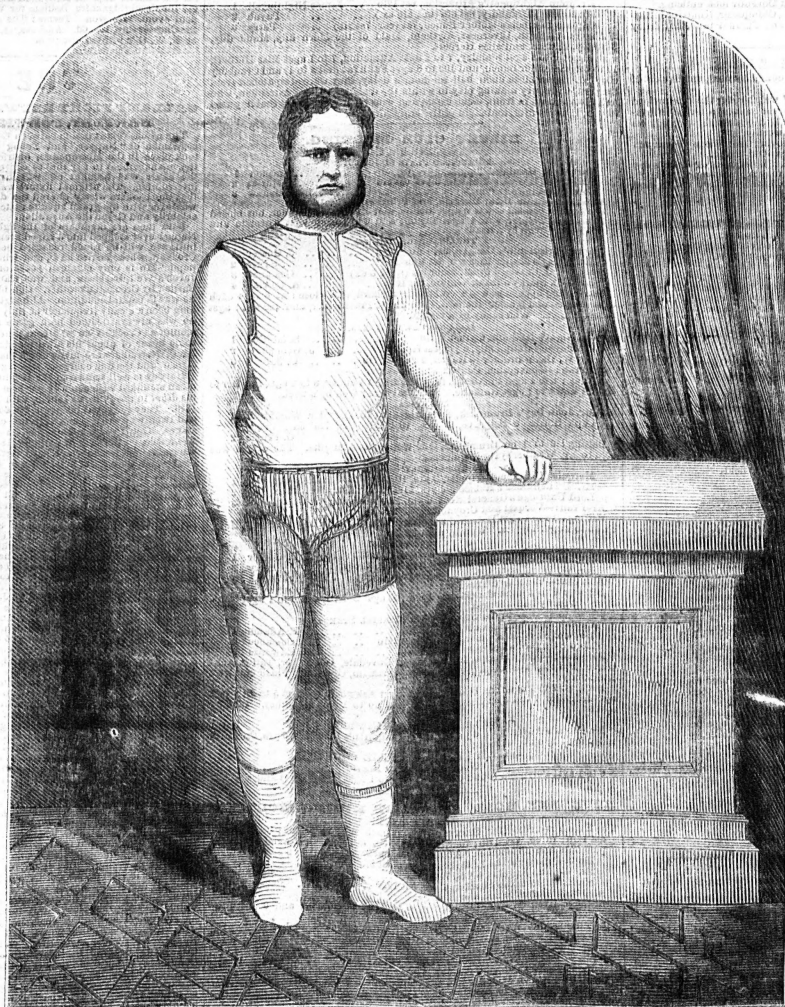
FLORA AND BRADMAN.—£12 10s a side is now down for the rabbit coursing match between Marshall's Flora, of Gildersom, and Scott's dog Brandy of Horsforth, to run the best of twenty-one courses at rabbits, for £25 a side, at St. Thomas' Grounds, Stanningley, on Monday, June 22.

VENUS AND PANDORA.—Mr. Hayes now has a £10 a side for the match between J. Holmes' Venus, of Longdon, and S. Oakes' Pandora, of Tunsall, to run the best of fifteen courses for rabbits, at catch-weight, to take place on July 20, at the Copeland Grounds, Manchester.

DIAMOND AND POLLY.—On Monday last about 600 of the admirers of this description of sport assembled at the City Grounds, Manchester, to witness the match between Mr. Bingham's Diamond, of Manchester, and Mr. Ellis' Polly, of Idle, near Leeds, to run the first sixteen out of thirty-five courses for £25 a side. Mr. Hadden, of the White Lion, Long Millgate, Manchester, was stakeholder, and Mr. John Wild, of the Forrester's Arms, Idle, acted as referee. Betting, was 2 to 1 in favour of Polly, who caught the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th to 10-1. There was also a sweepstakes for dogs of all weights, which was won by Wild's Spirit, of Gorton.

NEWCASTLE GARDENS, SHREFFALD.—On Monday last, a rabbit coursing sweepstakes took place at the gardens, under the management of Mr. James Phoenix, of the Ball Inn, Fosse-Street, for dogs of 14 lbs; entrance 3s; each dog not exceeding 17 lbs in weight to enter for 2s each. There were thirty-two dogs entered. First prize £10; second, 5s; third, 2s. Holly Vic, of Brighdale, got the first prize; Horner's Terrier, of Glasfield, the second; and Mr. on's Larch, of Sileby, the third. Drabble acted as referee.

LEEDS.—On Thursday a rabbit coursing match, the best of twenty-one courses, for £10 a side, was run at the Cardigan Arms, Leeds, between G. Baginbush's Blue Bird, and W. E. Pickett's Blue Fly, which was won by Blue Bird, who got the 1st, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th courses. Fly got the 2nd, 3rd, 6th, and 17th courses. TYPAL AND SHREFFALD.—Mr. J. Woolfoot has received the first deposit for a match, to run the best of twenty-one courses at rabbits, for £10 a side, between Strang's high Tulp, of Sheepall, and Greenwood's high Tulp, of Hunslet, to run at the Cardigan Arms, Leeds, on July 11th. The rabbit to be dropped at 10 in the forenoon.



RANDOLPH COOKE, THE WELL-KNOWN SCULLER OF OXFORD.

(From a Photograph.)













THE AQUATIC CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD.—VIEW OF THE RACE.

(From a Drawing by our own Artist.)







